



The Sampler

April 24, 2014

The Sampler is a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program.

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Web Highlights

This month's featured lake website is [Lake Wicwas](#) in Meredith, NH

[Earth Day Editorial](#)

Thomas Burack,
Commissioner NHDES

[Cool Green Science](#)

The Science Blog of The
Nature Conservancy

Upcoming Events

**[NHDES 2014 Drinking
Water Source Protection
Conference](#)**

Wednesday, April 30, 2014
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Grappone Conference Center
Concord, NH 03301

**[Citizen Science Lecture
Series](#)**

NH Reptile and Amphibian
Reporting Program (RAARP)
Wednesday, May 7, 2014
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
NH Fish and Game Offices
11 Hazen Dr.
Concord, NH 03301

[Annual VLAP Workshop](#)

Goose Control: A Local Lakes's Solution

By: Don Damm, VLAP Monitor, Ashuelot Pond, Washington, NH

Canada Geese commonly spend their summer's nesting and feeding on New Hampshire's lakes and ponds. However, the public may not realize that geese feces can be hazardous to people's health when inhaled or ingested. Parasites found in geese feces are a concern, especially to those who are most susceptible including the elderly, children and pregnant or breastfeeding women. Additionally, at even higher risks are children with weakened immune systems and people with gastrointestinal problems and ulcers. The parasite of concern is called *Cryptosporidium*, which causes an illness with the following symptoms: watery diarrhea, dehydration, weight loss, stomach cramps, fever, nausea, and vomiting. For most people the symptoms would be relatively short, a day or two, however, for children they could last for weeks with medical treatment.

The Lake Ashuelot Estates Association at Ashuelot Pond in Washington, NH wants to share our experience with managing Canada Geese. A single goose can eat four pounds of grass (their favorite food) a day and create three pounds of fecal matter...that is about 30 pieces of goose poop. There are currently 26 geese on the lake which generate a lot of goose poop. We have a large association beach of approximately 5,500 square feet of sand and about an acre of grass which attracts the geese when they are hungry. Last year, a three year old girl became very sick after playing at the beach. The doctor believed the illness was associated with a parasite in the goose poop that was present on the beach or adjacent grassy area.

We have been working to prevent the geese from accessing the beach area for many years now. We have tried a variety of physical barrier techniques to keep the geese from getting onto the beach and grassy areas. However, these physical barrier techniques are not so practical on an active beach, and over time the geese usually figure a way around the barriers. The way we have effectively controlled the geese is by regularly spraying diluted grape juice on the grass, with prior coordination with the Dept. of Agriculture. The grape juice contains the chemical methyl anthranilate which makes the grass unpalatable to the geese. When the geese try to feed on the grass sprayed with grape juice it results in an unpleasant sensation in their mouths.

We have used a regular 100 percent two quart container of grape juice that you can buy for \$2.50. Do not purchase grape drink. The

Saturday, May 31, 2014
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
NHDES Offices
29 Hazen Dr.
Concord, NH 03301

**NEC NALMS New England
Lakes Conference**

"Green Ideas for Blue Lakes"
June 13 - 14, 2014
Univ. of Connecticut
2110 Hillside Rd.
Storrs, CT 06269

Limno Lingo

Thermocline: The point of maximum temperature decrease with depth in a thermally stratified lake. Diagrammatically, it is where the temperature profile curve switches from concave upward to concave downward.

two quart container is then diluted with two quarts of water. This mixture is poured into a five gallon agricultural sprayer, which you can buy for under \$20.00. We use the light spray setting and the gallon of diluted grape juice covers the larger grassy area adjacent to the beach. The spraying effort is shared during the summer months with a number of volunteers. The spraying frequency varies based on weather conditions and on the grass cutting cycle. It appears to work on a two to three day cycle and spraying is done in the evening when the beach area is less occupied. Cutting of the grass may result in more frequent spraying, and we generally spray when the forecast is dry weather. If it does rain, spraying needs to be done the next day.

The Association's experience to date is that when a regular spraying cycle is maintained, the geese are not present. Generally, each spraying event takes about 20 to 25 minutes, because you usually will have visitors who are curious of what you are up to. It is almost like conducting a mini field educational course. As a back-up, we keep a bucket and shovel at the beach for volunteers to physically pick-up and remove the goose poop from the sandy beach. For additional information and questions about the Association's activities contact Don Damm at dbdamm27@gmail.com.

Winter Fish Kills

The NH Fish and Game Department and the Department of Environmental Services would like to remind the public that this is the time of year winter fish kills are often spotted in lakes and ponds in New Hampshire. Recently, a winter fish kill was reported at Hopkinton Lake in Hopkinton, NH. To learn more about winter fish kills read the [press release](#).

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